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Black & white stripes are in this season ...

For crosswalks, that is. Zebra stripes set for summer

Imagine there's no BuzzFeed, it's easy if you try

Oo-bla-di or beep beep yeah? Our columnist reveals all

PAGE 14

These dogs are underdogs

Saint Mary's Huskies men's hockey team faces big test in semifinal series with UNB

PAGE 20

KNOCK-KNOCK, WHO'S THERE? TRUDEAU, TO APOLOGIZE

LIBERAL LEADER GOES ALL-OUT TO MAKE AMENDS WITH UKRAINIANS AS RIVALS HEAP ON THE SCORN AFTER GAFFE

PAGE 10

Vigil shines light on missing woman



A large crowd gathers at Grand Parade with the family of Loretta Saunders for a vigil on Tuesday night for the missing Halifax woman. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"I don't know Loretta but I hope she comes home."
Fionnuala Reynolds, who attended the vigil

Loretta Saunders.
Family, friends and those who never knew her came out

DESERIE MURPHY
halifax@metronews.ca

Some knew Loretta Saunders. Others did not.

However, the crowd that gathered for a vigil for her at Grand Parade in Halifax on Tuesday night had one thing in common — they want her to come home safely.

Saunders, a 26-year-old Inuk woman who lives in Halifax and is originally from Newfoundland and Labrador, was last seen on Feb. 13 leaving her Cowie Hill Road apartment. Her family reported her missing a few days later.

About 100 people held candles to their chests, or posters in front of them, for the vigil, which included members of Saunders' family.

The crowd stood circled around a group of women singing and pounding drums in Inuk ancestral music.

"I think it's up to the people who make a statement like this, to make sure that girls like Loretta are found and find



James Saunders, Loretta's brother, holds up a candle with her image.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

the people that are responsible for her loss," said Louis Bernard, who is from Cape Breton and attended the hour-long vigil. "Being Aboriginal myself, it hurts even more."

A lot of aboriginal women have been disappearing, or even killed, he added.

"I came to show support for Loretta and other missing women."

The crowd grew as the minutes passed and it grew darker and chillier. People who knew the music sang to the songs and everyone listened intently as poetry and prayers were said.

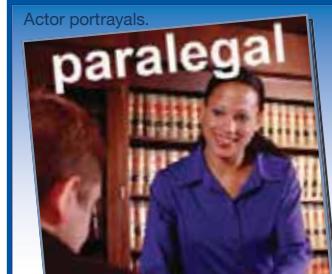
"It's wonderful to come

together, we need to stand strong together," said Cora Hamstead, who is from Saunders' home province of Newfoundland and Labrador. "We're here to pray and wish her to come home safe."

Tracey Oakley, a volunteer field worker with Amnesty International, said something like this really hits home to people when it happens in Halifax.

"Just like everybody else, I hope she comes home safe and sound, for everybody that loves her," Oakley said. "It's been too long."

More coverage, page 3



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'He couldn't face us'

Missing woman.

Family, friends of Loretta Saunders dismayed not to see Blake Leggette in court

 **HALEY RYAN**
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Family and friends of Loretta Saunders said they were disappointed they did not see the man accused of stealing her car in court on Tuesday, but Saunders' sister said he likely didn't want to face them.

Blake Leggette, 25, arrived at Halifax provincial court on Tuesday morning for his arraignment, but he didn't appear in the courtroom.

"I was disappointed, but I also feel that he might be breaking or something," Saunders' sister Delilah Terriak told reporters at the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre Tuesday afternoon.

"He couldn't face us. That's what I feel."

A large group of Saunders' family and friends filled the first bench in the courtroom on Tuesday, sitting quietly through the brief hearing.

Defence lawyer John Black



James Saunders, left, brother of Loretta Saunders, holds a picture of her as he sits with his boyfriend Yalcin Surkultay on Tuesday.

JEFF HARPER/METRO



Blake Leggette is escorted into the Halifax provincial courthouse by sheriffs on Tuesday morning. JEFF HARPER/METRO

appeared on Leggette's behalf, and the case was set over until Friday.

The judge also ruled Leggette cannot have any contact with Victoria Henneberry while in custody. Henneberry is charged with stealing Saunders' car as well.

Halifax police said investigators are bringing back Henneberry from Ontario on Wednesday for questioning, and she is expected in court Thursday.

Both have also been charged with fraud after allegedly using Saunders' debit card, which will be handled by Ontario po-

lice.

They were reportedly renting an apartment on Cowie Hill Road from Saunders.

Saunders, a 26-year-old Saint Mary's University student, hasn't been seen since she left her apartment on Feb. 13.

Terriak spoke to media Tuesday alongside Saunders' boyfriend, Yalcin Surkultay, and her brother James Saunders, who had recently arrived in Halifax. He stayed quiet during the meeting with his arm around Terriak.

"I'm trying to stay strong,"

I'm glad her family's making me feel like family too," said Surkultay.

Cheryl Maloney, president of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association, has been supporting the family and said it was "frustrating" not to see Leggette in person because they wanted him to witness their pain.

But Terriak shook her head and said they are "too strong to let this break (them)."

"We are getting her home. We are going to find her," Terriak said.

"Of course we're hurt-

ing and we miss her, but she would want us to do this with strength and composure, and to bring her home safe and think clearly."

Terriak said she has stayed strong by drawing on memories of laughing with Saunders, and being around people she holds "so close to her heart."

"Family is really important, and just drawing on the bond that we have. I can feel her out there. I can feel her. We all can," she said.

Leggette will be back in court Friday for a bail hearing.

1
NEWS



James Saunders, left, brother of Loretta Saunders, holds a picture of her as he sits with his boyfriend Yalcin Surkultay on Tuesday.

JEFF HARPER/METRO



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HRM streets getting zebra crosswalks

'Step in the right direction.' Council votes to have markings in place this year

GEORDON OMAND
halifax@metronews.ca

Halifax is set to get a paint job later this year.

Regional council voted on Tuesday to install zebra crosswalk markings at all uncontrolled, marked crosswalks in the city.

In a show of unanimous support, councillors approved the move to install the conspicuous dark-and-white alternating stripes for the upcoming summer season.

"Zebra crosswalks are not

What it will cost

\$155K

Cost to install zebra stripes.

\$85K

Cost to maintain zebra stripes.

a silver bullet," said deputy mayor Darren Fisher, who sits on the city's transportation committee. "But this is a step in the right direction."

Fisher said zebra crossings address the issues of visibility, which — along with education and enforcement — is one of the municipality's three key priorities for crosswalk safety.

City staff estimated installing the crosswalks would cost \$155,000, with \$85,000 per year for ongoing maintenance and re-painting.

"This item in particular, the committee unanimously thought would have some of the biggest impacts in our city to make pedestrian safety better," said Coun. Barry Dalrymple, another transportation committee member.

While the motion received unanimous support, some councillors were not as optimistic about its effectiveness.

"I'm in favour of zebra crosswalk markings," said Dartmouth Coun. Gloria McCluskey. "But in my opinion we could mark the whole street and it wouldn't make any difference."

"The silver bullet is pedestrians paying attention; it's drivers paying attention," added Steve Craig, councillor for Lower Sackville.



A couple walk across Spring Garden Road in a marked crosswalk on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Halifax-area crossings

Three more struck in crosswalks

Halifax police say there have now been 45 pedestrians hit by vehicles since Jan. 1, including four from Monday evening to Tuesday morning.

Three of the pedestrians were hit in crosswalks, while the other was struck in a sidewalk. No one was badly injured.

In the first incident, a man crossing Victoria Road at Thistle Street in Dartmouth was struck by a vehicle just before 7 p.m. on Monday.

At 7 a.m. Tuesday, Halifax RCMP were called to the intersection of Pinehill Drive and Skyridge Avenue in Lower Sackville, where a 25-year-old woman was struck as she was crossing the road.

About 30 minutes later, a 60-year-old man crossing Lady Hammond Road in Halifax was struck by an SUV at Robie Street.

The drivers involved in the collisions were each given \$700 fines for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

Police say another vehicle pedestrian collision happened Tuesday around 5:45 a.m. when a 41-year-old man walking on Mayo Street in Halifax was hit by a vehicle backing out of a driveway.

DESERIE MURPHY/FOR METRO,
WITH FILES FROM
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Getting Dropped Off at the Airport?



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Council stalled again on regional plan review

Council. Last-minute amendments sent to city staff for consideration before moving forward

GEORDON OMAND
halifax@metronews.ca

Halifax regional council has opted to send a slew of controversial last-minute amendments over to city staff for review and clarification before moving forward on the five-year review of Halifax's regional plan.

Included in the changes is the proposal to re-designate an area in Purcell's Cove from urban reserve land for development as a rural commuter community. Council voted Tuesday to have city staff prepare a report on the changes, which will be presented to committee of the whole in May.

"We're never going to please everybody with the regional plan ... and that's OK," said Coun. Wayne Mason.

Quoted

"It's far too risky for us to make amendments on the fly."

Wayne Mason, HRM councillor, on his proposal to ask for feedback from the city.



Coun. Wayne Mason is shown in this photo from last year. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Restoration planned for Public Gardens heritage building

A heritage building associated with the Halifax Public Gardens is set for some spring loving.

Regional council voted to pay Halifax-based heritage restoration company Masontech Inc. \$881,000 to repair the exterior of the Public Gardens' historic superintendent building.

The two-storey structure — also known as the Public Gardens Cottage and the Power House, after 19th-century park superintendent Richard Power — was built at the turn of the 1900s at the corner of Bell Road and Sackville Street.

Updates to the building include brick cladding, glazing,

work on the main stairway and installing an accessibility ramp and are scheduled to wrap up within four months.

Additional work to the roof and interior of the building will cost an estimated \$775,000.

The renovated building would be used for "corporate municipal needs" or rented

Historical importance

Early Halifax architect James Charles Dumaresq designed the building.

out for external use.
GEORDON OMAND/FOR METRO



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RCMP were on scene at Cambridge Elementary School during Tuesday's lockdown. KING'S COUNTY REGISTER

Two arrested after schools put under lockdown

Berwick area.

Police say threatening text was sent to high school student

Two and a half hours after students at two Berwick-area schools were placed under lockdown, the precaution was lifted and two people were arrested.

RCMP confirmed that two young people were arrested without incident, nowhere near Cambridge Elementary and Central Kings Rural High

Quoted

"I was extremely proud of our students and staff and the manner in which they conducted themselves during the event."

Central Kings Rural High School principal Janice Foote

School. Police say it is too early to determine if criminal charges will be laid.

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Alain LeBlanc confirmed officers were called to the schools after a threat was received by a high school student just before noon. He could not say what the nature of the threat was.

"This relates to a student that received a threat ... in the form of a text," LeBlanc said.

A release issued by the RCMP indicated the text was received at about 11:55 a.m.

RCMP had several officers at the schools and a police service dog was called in to assist. Police do not believe the suspects

ever entered the school property.

Kristen Loyst, spokesperson for the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, said that no threat had been made to Cambridge Elementary, but the lockdown was implemented at the elementary school next door as a "precaution."

The AVRSB announced at 2 p.m. Cambridge Elementary would be dismissed at the normal time.

At 2:30 p.m., the board announced the lockdown had been lifted and dismissal at Central Kings would proceed as usual. KING'S COUNTY REGISTER



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Home. HMCS Toronto to dock in Halifax Thursday

The HMCS Toronto is scheduled to return home to Halifax on Thursday morning after spending more than a year at sea.

The navy frigate left Atlantic Canada in January 2013 to participate in Operation ARTEMIS.

ARTEMIS is Canada's contribution to an international task force focused on promoting maritime security and countering terrorism activity around the Arabian Peninsula and Indian Ocean.

HMCS Toronto houses a crew of about 250, all of whom were replaced in July with fresh personnel.

According to the Department of National Defence, the Halifax-class frigate steamed nearly 150,000 kilometres, conducted five dozen boardings and intercepted and destroyed nine narcotics shipments.

The frigate is expected to dock around 10 a.m. Thursday at the Canadian Forces Base Halifax. METRO



HMCS Toronto METRO FILE

Laura Jessome. Accessory to murder charge dropped against one of two accused

A charge of being an accessory after the fact to murder has been dismissed against a Cape Breton man.

Brian Augustine Deruelle, 39, of Glace Bay, was one of two people charged with being an accessory in relation to the May 2012 death of 21-year-old Laura Catherine Jessome. The second accused, Robert Edwin Matheson, 37, also of Glace Bay, is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing on the charge beginning Oct. 27.

The charge against Deruelle was withdrawn during a Supreme Court appearance Monday in Sydney. As is the practice, the Crown offered no explanation for the dismissal

May 2012 death

Laura Jessome's remains were found inside a hockey bag along the shores of the Mira River in Marion Bridge.

other than there was no reasonable expectation of a successful prosecution.

The two men were charged with being accessories after Thomas Ted Barrett, 38, and Morgan James MacNeil, 23, both of Glace Bay, were charged with second-degree murder in connection with Jessome's death. CAPE BRETON POST

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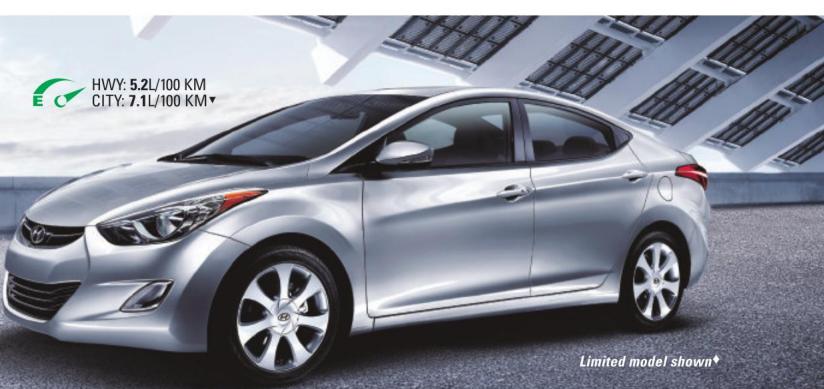
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A winning cup of tea. N.S. woman rolls up the rim ... to a brand new car

Next time Michelle Bonvie goes to Tim Hortons, she can go through the drive-thru in her new Corolla.

The New Glasgow woman rolled up the rim of her Monday morning tea to reveal that she had won a car.

"It was just kind of surreal," she said.

Everything lined up perfectly for Bonvie.

Before heading to work for the Victorian Order of Nurses, Bonvie stopped at the Tim Hortons location at the Esso gas station in Blue Acres around 10:20 a.m.

Although the East River Road location is closer to her job, she chose the one in Blue Acres because it allowed her to make fewer left turns.

There was a big lineup when she got there, and she thought about leaving.

"It was 10:17 a.m. I was thinking, 'I don't want to be late. Maybe I should go somewhere else.'

But a red car came in behind her, locking her in place.

A surreal feeling

"I imagine it'll feel real when I have the car in my possession."

Michelle Bonvie, who won a Corolla in Tim Hortons' Roll Up The Rim To Win contest.

She ordered her medium tea and took it to her morning meeting.

After the meeting, she started to roll up the rim, saw the word "win," and got a little excited.

When she saw the word "Corolla," she didn't know what to think. She didn't believe it at first.

She passed it around to other nurses at work, asking, "Does this mean I won?"

Her colleagues started jumping up and down, screaming.

Bonvie has to fill out preliminary paperwork and send her cup tab to the company to prove her win.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS



Skating the night away at the Oval

Skaters enjoy a clear, cool evening as nighttime falls on the Emera Oval on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Shania Twain to perform in P.E.I.

Canadian country pop singer Shania Twain is coming to Charlottetown this summer, The Guardian has learned.

No one is dishing out details yet, but the official announcement is expected to be made in the near future at

a press conference.

The Guardian was able to confirm that the Charlottetown Event Grounds has been booked for a concert on the Labour Day weekend. This concert has been rumoured since early in the year when

talk of party plans for 2014 began to trickle out.

The concert would serve as the grand finale for what is being called Founders' Week, one of dozens of events built around celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference, which led to Confederation.

The Guardian did seek comment from Penny Walsh McGuire, executive director for P.E.I. 2014 Inc., but that call was not returned.

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

\$100,000 a year. If the Cape Breton District Health Authority is unable to provide adequate security in a situation and police are required to stay beyond the time they are mandated to do so, the police service will invoice the health authority to recover those costs.

CAPE BRETON POST



Solar City Program

We're accepting new applicants for HRM's Solar City Program!

Program registration opens: Monday, March 3

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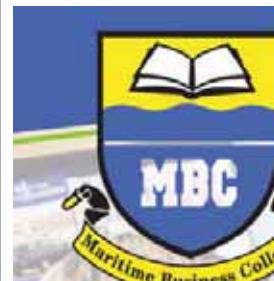
Saturday, March 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Toronto. Ford opens up to American TV host, shuts down local journalists

The mayor of Toronto was happy to discuss drinking and drugs with the host of a U.S. morning show on Tuesday but bristled when asked questions on the same issues by journalists in his own city.

"I don't use illegal drugs. I experimented with them, like probably a year ago, but I don't use drugs," Rob Ford told Today show host Matt Lauer. "Things are going fantastic, Matt."

Ford took a combative stance when asked by Toronto reporters to clarify his comments.

Misuse of public funds?

N.L. to spend \$60K to clean up image of seal industry

Newfoundland and Labrador is funding an awareness campaign aimed at seal industry "misconceptions" ahead of a World Trade Organ-

Not quite perfect

"Maybe you're perfect, but I'm not. We're moving on in a positive direction."

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, to Matt Lauer.

"Don't be jealous if I do an interview with an American station," he told journalists while leaving a news conference where he refused to answer questions on drug use.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ization appeal.

Fisheries Minister Keith Hutchings said Tuesday the province will give \$60,000 to the Seals and Sealing Network, an industry group that's leading the campaign.

Animal-rights groups say this is a misuse of public funds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau says he's sorry for joke about Ukraine



Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has apologized after facing heat for comments that lightheartedly linked the conflict in Ukraine with the Russian Olympic hockey defeat. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No laughing matter.

Liberal leader apologizes for remark about Russian invasion as opponents look to capitalize on the gaffe

Justin Trudeau was back on Parliament Hill Tuesday to face the music for his joke about Ukraine, as the Conservatives and NDP pondered once again how to make the Liberal leader's latest gaffe stick.

Trudeau told the media he waited until Tuesday to apologize because he "wanted to make sure that I had the chance to express directly to leaders in the Ukrainian community ... how seriously the Liberal party takes the situation in Ukraine."

He added that his joke during a pre-taped appearance on a Radio-Canada current affairs program "made light of some very real fears and concerns

that Ukrainians have about Russian intervention."

Trudeau apologized earlier in the day to the Ukrainian ambassador to Canada after making a quick visit to the embassy. Vadym Prystaiko, who had called for the apology a day earlier, praised Trudeau for being the first Canadian politician to sign a book of condolences.

Trudeau also tweeted that he'd made amends with Paul Grod, head of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

In an interview Thursday, Trudeau said Russia, peeved about being eliminated from the medal round in Olympic hockey, might vent its spleen by getting involved in Ukraine.

In the aftermath of Trudeau's comments, both the Conservatives and NDP pounced in an effort to inflict some damage. Trudeau is consistently ahead in public-opinion polls and wrapped up a successful policy convention in Montreal over the weekend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tensions soar in Crimea against Kyiv 'bandits'

'Russia, save us!'

Protesters in the pro-Russian region of Crimea aren't ready for the change in Ukraine's government

Dozens of pro-Russian protesters rallied Tuesday in the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea against "the bandits" in Kyiv who are trying to form a new government — with some even speaking of secession. A lawmaker from Russia stoked their passions further by promising them that Russia will protect them.

As a Russian flag flew Tuesday in front of the city

council building in Sevastopol — a key Crimean port where Russia's Black Sea Fleet is based — an armoured Russian personnel carrier and two trucks full of troops made a rare appearance on the streets of the city.

The Crimean Peninsula — a pro-Russian region about the size of Massachusetts or Belgium — is a tinder pot in the making.

Protesters had torn down the Ukrainian flag a day ago, pleading with Moscow to protect them from the new authorities in Ukraine who have forced President Viktor Yanukovych to flee Kyiv, the capital, and go into hiding.

"Bandits have come to power," said Vyacheslav

Tokarev, a 39-year-old construction worker in Sevastopol. "I'm ready to take arms to fight the fascists who have seized power in Kyiv."

Yanukovych's whereabouts are unknown but he was last reportedly seen in the Crimea. Law enforcement agencies have issued an arrest warrant for Yanukovych over the killing of 82 people, mainly protesters, last week in the bloodiest violence in Ukraine's post-Soviet history.

Chanting "Russia, save us!" the protesters gathered for a third day before administrative buildings in Sevastopol and in other Crimean cities. The protests Sunday numbered in the thousands.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Thai woman raises fists against government

An anti-government protester raises her clenched fists as she listens to a speech by anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday. The protesters, mostly representing the urban elite and those in the south, are pressing for the resignation of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bitcoin traders on their knees



Bitcoin trader Kolin Burgess, right, of London and American Aaron (only his first name was given) hold protest signs as they conduct a sit-in in front of the office tower housing Mt. Gox in Tokyo Tuesday. KAORI HITOMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo. Following news of Mt. Gox vanishing, the cryptocurrency fell below \$500 US, from a high of \$1,200 US

One of the world's largest bitcoin exchanges has seemingly disappeared, delivering a severe blow to the virtual currency as it struggles to gain legitimacy.

A coalition of virtual cur-

rency companies said Tuesday that Tokyo-based Mt. Gox went under after secretly racking up catastrophic losses.

Mt. Gox's website was returning a blank page Tuesday. The disappearance of the site follows the resignation Sunday of Mt. Gox CEO Mark Karpeles from the board of the Bitcoin Foundation, a group seeking legitimacy for the exotic new form of money. The exchange had imposed a ban on withdrawals earlier this month. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Adding 800 stores

Timmies brews up plan to slam rivals

Tim Hortons Inc. is planning a flurry of changes to its operations, including healthier food choices and the addition of 800 new stores over the next several years as it looks to maintain its edge in an increasingly competitive market.

Chief executive Marc Caira said "the plan is aggressive but very achievable." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute

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TSX
 14,188.98 (-38.10)

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LET IT BE OR MAKE IT BETTER?

Thanks to sites like BuzzFeed, this is the Golden Age of Wasting Time.

And one of the best ways to waste time, wherever you are, whatever you're supposed to be doing, is the Identity Quiz.

You know? If you were a sandwich, what kind of sandwich would you be? Turns out I'm a ham sandwich, but you knew that.

As you launch your identity quest, be warned there are millions of these things. There are even millions of What Kind of Sandwich Am I? quizzes.

So we need a hook, and what better than this: It is the 50th anniversary of the English Invasion this month, starting with the night the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan show and launched a rock revolution.

Of course, to celebrate the Fab Four moment, there's a quiz on BuzzFeed which allows you to find out which



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Beatle you are: the Popular (if a little square) Paul, the Genius John, the Spiritual George, and the Affable (if a little goofy) Ringo.

Like all great time wasters, the quiz is fun to do. You start by choosing your favourite psychedelic pattern, and go from there.

The quiz wants to know if you'd rather sing "oo-bla-di-bla-da" or "beep beep yeah!"

It wants to know if you think you should take a sad song and make it better. Or let it be.

The quiz asks you to choose your fave from a gallery of foxy '60s ladies (the Beatles and the boys of BuzzFeed are pre-feminist, apparently).

Finally it asks how you're feeling about love right now: All you need is love? Or can't buy me love?

By now you've figured out that this quiz (except for the foxy ladies) is based on Beatles' lyrics.

So it helps, if like me, you've spent a lifetime trying to get Yellow Submarine out of your head.

But as the Beatles have sold more records, had more No. 1 hits, and have been covered by more artists than any group in history, it's a safe bet you know John, Paul, George and Ringo maybe better than you know yourself.

So now that you've rushed to BuzzFeed to take the quiz, welcome back. Who are you?

If you're me, you're a late-'60s version of John Lennon, which is not what I expected but it's better than being an '80s version of John Lennon.

And I'm kinda relieved I'm not Ringo. Although you'd have to argue that Ringo is certainly the luckiest Beatle. If he hadn't met John or Paul, he'd be driving a bus in Liverpool, like his dad.

And taking the quiz to find out what Beatle he would be: John, Paul, George, or ... Pete?

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Leaving your fate in the hands or the stars — or the astrologers who read the stars — might help you deal with your high school crush, but for real-world relationship woes, financial burdens or career concerns, you're going to need something a little more scientific. And what could be more solid than fortune teller, tarot card and magic eight ball apps.



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and present to see what your future holds. Choose between life, love, money, health, travel, etc. Available for Android and Apple.

Magic 8-ball:
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Twitter

@metropicks asked: Actor/writer/director Harold Ramis has died. What's your favourite Harold Ramis work?

@thechipfactor: "what happened to your Sargent? He got blown up sir!" Best quote from any Harold Ramis film. He will be missed.

@DerchanskyLegal: definitely remember his work on #SCTV, but can't ignore his brilliance in #Caddyshack

and #GroundhogDay

@Chriosania: Ghostbusters...but Stripes is a VERY close second

@starrydays17: the original Ghostbusters movie!

@BulliesFan27: Gotta be Stripes. That's the fact Jack! #RIPHaroldRamis

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

ZOOM

Still cute with ears cut



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Puppy love at former bin Laden base

Sgt. Kevin Ingram from Wheeling, West Virginia with the U.S. Army's 4th squadron 2d Cavalry Regiment comforts a puppy that had its ears cut off while visiting an Afghan National Police (ANP) outpost that was once home to Osama

bin Laden during a patrol on Tuesday near Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Ears are often removed from puppies to prepare them to become fighting dogs.

Ingram's squadron is responsible for defending Kandahar Airfield against rocket attacks from insurgents. **GETTY IMAGES**

Also in Afghanistan

- A few years ago, an abandoned puppy was befriended by Navy reservist Mark Feffer, who wanted to adopt her. At the end of his tour he discovered she was lost, but a rescue mission reunited them.
- A British marine found a dog in 2010 with his ears and tail cut off. Once he told his sister the dog would be shot once he left Afghanistan, she set up a campaign to bring the dog to Britain.

Neeson Taken with being Non-Stop man of action

Fighting Irish. Actor with serious chops embraces unexpected butt-kicking roles



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Much of the fun of 2008's *Taken* was watching beloved thespian Liam Neeson go all Chuck Norris in a dirty little Euro trash thriller.

In the action-adventure movie, Neeson played a former "preventer" for the U.S. government. A specialist in black ops, he was an undercover agent who contained volatile situations before they got out of control. Retired, he lived in Los Angeles near his estranged 17-year-old daughter Kim (Maggie Grace). When she is kidnapped by a child slavery ring, he has only 96 hours to use his particular set of skills to get her back. His rescue mission takes him on a wild rampage through the soft underbelly of Paris. "I'll tear down the Eiffel Tower if I have to," he says.

It's a down-and-dirty little flick, classed up somewhat by the presence of Neeson in the lead role and it became an unexpected lightening-in-a-bottle



Liam Neeson is an air marshal hunting an in-flight killer in the thriller *Non-Stop*. CONTRIBUTED

hit. It also redefined Neeson's recent career.

At an age when many actors are staring down the barrel of character parts and cameos, the 61-year-old has made an unlikely U-turn into action movies. "I was a tiny bit embarrassed by it," he says of *Taken*, "but then people started sending me action scripts."

His latest actioner is *Non-Stop*, a high-flying thriller that takes place on an international crossing from New York to London. Neeson is an

air marshal who must prevent a crazed killer from murdering passengers in flight.

Taken and *Taken 2* (which were essentially the same movie) worked not just because the action sequences were out of control, but because audiences had some empathy for Neeson's character as he kicked butt across Europe. It was a personal mission: He was trying to get his daughter back.

Action movies like *Wrath of the Titans*, *The Grey* and *Unknown* may not burnish

Arguably best known for his Best Actor Oscar nomination as the charismatic but humble German businessman Oskar Schindler in *Schindler's List*, the Irish actor has fully embraced his

new career path.

- *Vanity Fair* even acknowledged the twist in an article called, *Wham! Bam! Thank You, Liam!*

Neeson's rep as a great actor, but when asked why he keeps making these kinds of movies, he has a solid reason: "Because they're dumb enough to offer them to me!"

2
SCENE

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Miley Cyrus

Don't choke on your own tongue, Miley — we know how fond you are of it

Time to slow down with those Miley Cyrus in Peter Pan rumours, Star magazine. A recent report in the tabloid suggested in an article titled "Just call her Twerker Bell" that the singer was eyeing the role of Tinker Bell in NBC's upcoming live broadcast of the

musical, claiming it is her "dream role."

Cyrus took to Twitter to refute the claim, posting a photo of the offending article along with the comment, "I would rather choke on my own tongue." And we all know how fond she is of her tongue.

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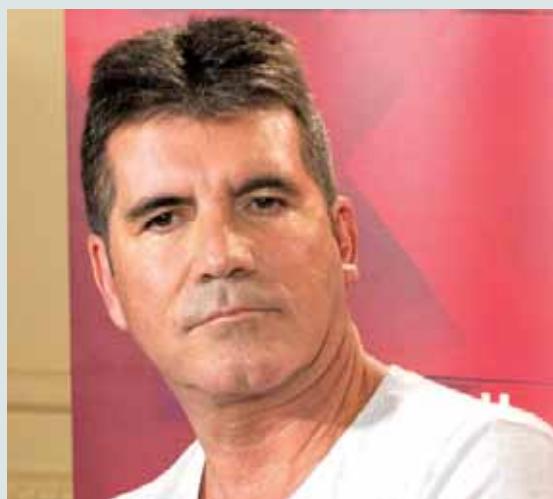
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The Word



Cowell gets a taste of his own negative medicine

**PAT
HEALY**
Metro World News

Simon Cowell is learning firsthand just how hard it is to parent in the public eye.

After photos surfaced of Cowell holding 10-day-old son Eric on a Miami beach on Monday, mommy bloggers around the world spit out their placenta smoothies to go on the attack over his bad parenting.

"The sun? Simon, babies' skin is like parchment paper this young.... That kid is

gonna look 45 when he's a teen," mommy blog The Stir chastised.

In regards to the photos and the fact that Eric flew in a plane (most doctors recommend no air travel until at least three months old because of air pressure concerns), a commentator on another site said, "I know I was told no flying or sun exposure until they were at least six months old. I guess these two are just idiots that ignore what a Dr. tells you."

To be fair, the photos show that Cowell and co. hid out most of the time underneath a shade and Eric did don a cap. As for me, I'm more aghast at poor baby Eric getting a mouthful of Cowell's chest hair than him being on the beach.

**TOP
SIX@6**
Weeknights at 6 K8 counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

6	Lorde Team
5	Jason Derulo Talk Dirty
4	A Great Big World ft Christina Aguilera Say Something
3	Pharrell Williams Happy
2	Pitbull ft Ke\$ha Timber
1	Katy Perry Ft Juicy J Dark Horse

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An island of one's own

Caribbean craving?

There are plenty of destinations to choose from in the warm southern seas — here's a rundown of some of the best

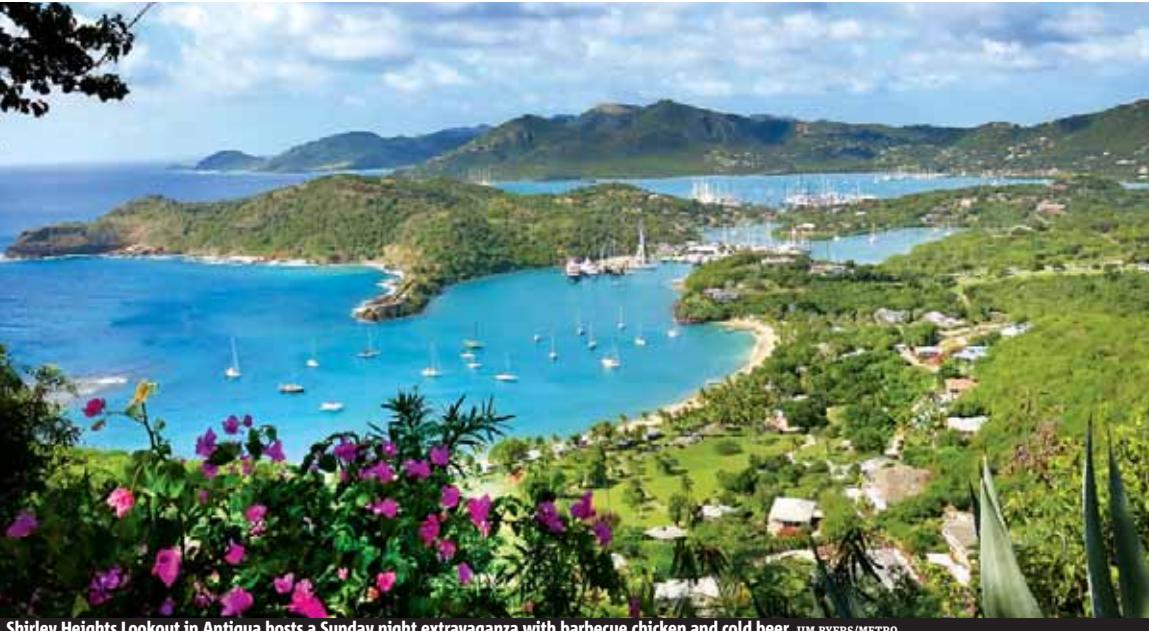


JIM
BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

It's still high season in the Caribbean. And high time you ventured south for a bit of sun and sand. But where to go? There's a Caribbean island for every kind of traveller, and the choices can be overwhelming. So here's a look at a few personal favourites that might fit your style.

For the swimmer-diver:

There's awesome swimming to be found off the coast of Negril, Jamaica. Down at Rick's Café, you can watch hugely talented local kids do wild, somersaulting dives off rocky cliffs into impossibly blue water. You can't get quite as high as they do, but there are places near the bar where you can do a perfect cannonball — or, more likely, a face plant — yourself. Small boats out of Negril often weigh anchor just offshore, allowing patrons to swim in some of the prettiest water the world has to offer. Alternative: Check out the cool bars and the swim



Shirley Heights Lookout in Antigua hosts a Sunday night extravaganza with barbecue chicken and cold beer. JIM BYERS/METRO

scene at Orient Beach on St. Martin. It's clothing optional. But, like many places, some of the folks who doff their clothes are people who really should stay perched at the bar. In long pants. And a hoodie.

For the snorkel, scuba fan: The U.S. Virgin Islands doesn't get the same attention from Canadians as some parts of the Caribbean. But there are glorious beaches to be found and wonderful water sports. At Trunk Bay on quiet St. John, which might be the prettiest beach on the planet, you can

swim near offshore islands and follow an underwater trail. There's a similar trail near Buck Island, a short boat ride off St. Croix, where you'll also find a glistening white sand beach and hardly any people. Alternative: St. Lucia's Sugar Beach, nestled between the two giant rock pillars known as the Pitons, has one of the finest reefs in the Caribbean.

For the luxury lover: Sandy Lane on the west coast of Barbados is a stunner. There are free-form pools, private villas, one of the Caribbean's top

spas and sumptuous dining on offer. This area also is home to the wonderful Green Monkey golf course. Tiger Woods married Elin Nordegren here, not that that ended so well. Alternative: Amanyara is a quiet spot on a lovely stretch of sand in the Turks and Caicos, far from the crowds of Provo. Fabulous Asian-inspired food.

For the drinker:

What, you thought we forgot about bar hopping? One of the most famous imbibing spots on the planet is at Shirley Heights Lookout in Antigua, where they

do a Sunday night extravaganza with plenty of cold beer, barbecue chicken and live music. Great sunsets and parties that last long into the night. It's also a stunning spot during daylight hours, with spectacular views of the island's green hills and perfect blue waters and boats bobbing in the bays below. Possibly the best vista in the Caribbean. Alternative: Sunshine's is a colourful, seaside bar on the west coast of Nevis, part of St. Kitts and Nevis. Try the local cocktail, the Killer Bee, and look for the photo of Wayne Gretzky.

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Sing a song of workday success

Whistle while you work.

Seven jams that will tune up your ability to take on your job

ELIAS
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TalentEgg.ca

Every now and then you may find it difficult to bring the necessary quantity of pep and verve to your workday.

Whether your sub-par performance stems from illness or indulgence, you'll probably find yourself turning to music to get back into the swing of things — after coffee, of course.

While everyone has different musical tastes, this work-related group of songs should help you get through your day as smoothly as possible.

8:00 a.m.

9 To 5 – Dolly Parton

"Tumble outta bed / And stumble to the kitchen / Pour

myself a cup of ambition"

Even if the title of Dolly Parton's gold single doesn't coincide with your work schedule, this hit from 1980 will help you kick-start your day. As an added bonus, this song will instantly make any commute feel like a montage — doubly so on public transit.

9:01 a.m.

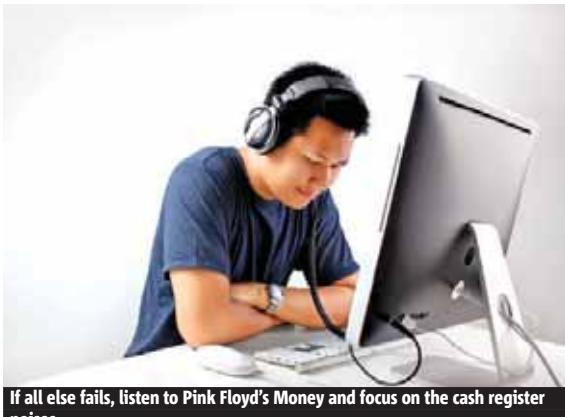
Manic Monday – The Bangles

"It's just another manic Monday / I wish it was Sunday / 'Cause that's my funday / My I don't-have-to-run-day"

You may be one of the unhappy people who dread Monday as the start of the workweek.

This pop staple, written by Prince, of all people, tells the story of someone who knows exactly how you feel. This one is best enjoyed as background music while you settle down at your desk and plan your day.

Enjoy the increasingly creative attempts to rhyme with



If all else fails, listen to Pink Floyd's Money and focus on the cash register noises. iSTOCK

Monday.

10:35 a.m.

Bang The Drum All Day – Todd Rundgren

"I don't want to work / I just want to bang on the drum all day"

Like the average workday, this song can be a little repetitive at times, but it's also uplifting.

In Rundgren's self-defeating hedonism, you'll find a gentle reminder that you can't have fun all the time, or fun would lose its meaning.

There's a 50 per cent chance the chorus will get stuck in your head. You've been warned.

1:22 p.m.

Working For The Weekend – Loverboy

"Everyone's looking to see if it was you / Everyone wants you to come through"

If the title doesn't jog your memory, a few seconds of listening will. This number has been in a number of advertisements, TV shows, movies and video games.

This song's lyrics do an excellent job reminding you that all the responsibility is on your shoulders, while reinforcing that there's always a light at the

end of the tunnel.

Get ready to power through the afternoon.

3:24 p.m.

Get Up Offa That Thing – James Brown

(Every other line in this song is "get up offa that thing." It's topical.)

There's a good chance your job or job hunt has you sitting in front of a computer for hours at a time, which isn't good for your health. At the risk of being rude and overly familiar, that thing you're sitting on? Get up off of it. Seriously.

I'm not allowed to dance without warning my co-workers in advance, but even I danced while writing about this song.

4:52 p.m.

Working Man – Rush

"(Extended instrumental break with your best vocal impression of a guitar solo)"

My understanding of Rush fans is that they rarely need a reason to listen to more Rush, so I only need to sell this to the rest of you.

For your own safety, I wouldn't recommend listening to this while you're typing. Save this electrifying number for packing up at the end of the day — don't resist the urge to drum on the stacks of paper sur-

Jams for the jobless

Haven't nabbed a nine-to-five yet? Sing along with Styx's Blue Collar Man as you start writing that resumé:

Give me a job, give me security / give me a chance to survive / I'm just a poor soul in the unemployment line / my god, I'm hardly alive / my mother and father, my wife and my friends / You see them laugh in my face / But I've got the power, and I've got the will / I'm not a charity case

I'll take the long night, impossible odds / keeping my eye to the keyhole / if it takes all that to be just what I am / well I'm gonna be a blue collar man

keeping my mind on a better life / where happiness is only a heartbeat away / paradise can it be all I heard it was / I close my eyes and maybe I'm already there ...

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ABOUT 30
MINUTES

This recipe makes 12 muffins. EMILY RICHARDS

Citrus, chocolate, cardamom: The trio of tasty baking

Orange Cardamom Bran Muffins. Balance the tart-sweet flavours of orange with bittersweet chocolate



DINNER
EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

With little chocolate surprises throughout these muffins, each bite will be different.

Fresh, bright orange flavour and colour burst through, making them attractive and tasty. Use a navel orange, which has no seeds and is very juicy.

This is a great muffin to make with the kids to show them how you can use the whole fruit.

My kids always get a kick out of adding the pieces to the food processor, it's a whole new kind of fun in

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

the kitchen.

1. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, bran, baking powder, soda and cardamom; set aside.

2. Cut orange into quarters. Place in food processor bowl and pulse until finely chopped, almost pureed. Scrape down sides and add milk, orange juice, brown sugar, butter, egg and vanilla and puree until combined. Fold in chocolate.

3. Pour the orange mixture over the flour mixture and stir until combined. Divide batter among 12 lined or greased muffin cups. Bake in 400 F (200 C) oven for about 20 minutes or until they're golden brown and firm to the touch.

Cooking tips

- Look for dark chocolate or bittersweet chocolate chips or pastilles in grocery or bulk food stores with the percentage of cocoa right on the label. The higher the number, the darker and deeper the flavour of the chocolate.
- Wrap muffins individually and freeze for up to two weeks. Thaw at room temperature or in the microwave.
- If you don't use whole wheat flour often, be sure to freeze it so it doesn't go rancid on you. Other whole grain flours should be stored the same way if they are not used frequently. The freezer is a great place to store your nuts and seeds as well. Let them come to room temperature before using in a recipe.

Ingredients

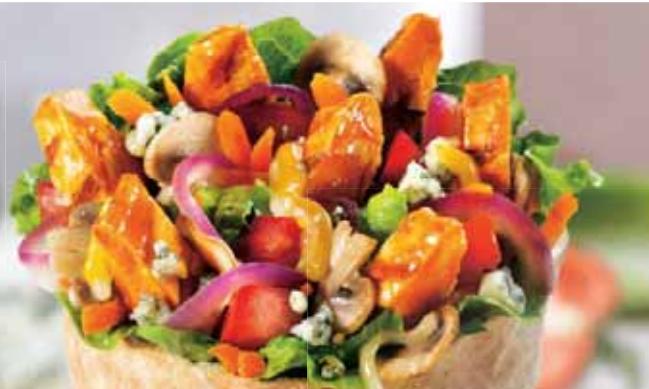
- 2 cups (500 ml) whole-wheat flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) wheat bran
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking soda
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cardamom or cinnamon
- 1 navel orange, unpeeled and washed well
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) orange juice
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) vanilla
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped bittersweet chocolate, at least 60% cocoa

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Huskies embracing underdog tag vs. UNB

AUS men's hockey.

Saint Mary's coach says his squad will have to play mistake-free hockey to prevail



ANDREW
RANKIN

andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

One of Trevor Stienburg's long-held, and perhaps farfetched, beliefs about the game of hockey provides insight into his success as a player and coach.

"My motto is every time you take the ice you have a chance to win, and I've believed that since I was six years old," said the reigning CIS coach of the year.

His accomplishments at the helm of the Huskies hockey program speak for themselves: a national title and three AUS championships, to name a few.

Now, fresh off an improbable quarter-final series comeback win against the P.E.I. Panthers, Stienburg and Co. face another huge challenge: knocking off the defending national champs in the New Brunswick Varsity Reds.

"I'm really proud of the way our guys played," added Stienburg. "People understand that we're a good hockey team, and yeah, we are down on numbers. We have some key guys out, but if our P.E.I. series is any indication, they can expect a heck of a fight."

Having lost all four regular-season matchups against



Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg watches over his players during practice at the Halifax Forum on Tuesday.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Quoted

"I think that we proved is that the regular season doesn't mean anything." Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg

the Varsity Reds, the Huskies will be the clear underdog going into the best-of-five AUS semifinal that gets underway in Fredericton on Wednesday evening.

But, it's a role Stienburg has grown accustomed to, and he's embracing the challenge this time around.

"If you want to win something you have to beat the

best teams, and we're getting the chance, in my opinion, to play the best team in Canada."

Always a spirited rivalry, both teams met in last year's AUS and CIS finals. Both times the Huskies came up short. But Stienburg holds no animosity.

"They're a classy bunch and they're a good hockey team. We have to be efficient

and score on our chances. There were times in the year we were not efficient; we may have outplayed teams and had chances to score, but we couldn't. But lately that's changed."

Stienburg's challenge to his troops: work like dogs to take away UNB's time and space. In the process, they need goalie Anthony Peters to continue his rock-solid play. They also need a few breaks here and there.

"There's proud tradition running in these guys' blood," said Stienburg. "And we're relying on it right now."

Between the pipes

Saint Mary's counting on goalie Peters

As far as Anthony Peters is concerned, it was his fault that the Saint Mary's Huskies lost their quarter-final opener.

But the Huskies netminder didn't dwell. He simply rebounded with back-to-back stellar performances.

Just like that, the fifth-place Huskies pushed aside the fourth-seeded PEI Panthers in their best-of-three series on Sunday.

"He played as any goalie for a team which is an underdog in a playoff series needed to play, that's outstanding," said head coach Trevor Stienburg. "You can't take anything away from him. He was the best player on the ice for basically the whole series. Like last year, he was the difference."

Now, Peters will have his hands full facing off against the No. 1 team in the conference.

"We look at it as a big challenge," said Peters. "As an athlete that's what you always want, to challenge yourself, to get better. It's a great test."

They'll be playing with confidence and momentum against a team which earned a bye into the semifinal with a 24-3-1 record.

"We're a little battle tested right now," said Peters.

"We already faced elimination so that shows we have a resilient group. They will be well prepared. But we'll be a step ahead of them from the get-go."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Carlyle hopes Leafs have s'more in tank



Toronto coach Randy Carlyle is running a "mini training camp" as the Leafs gear up for the stretch run to the playoffs after Sochi. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Sixty games into the NHL season, Randy Carlyle and the Toronto Maple Leafs are back to square one.

The Leafs resumed practising last week following their Olympic break. They open the post-break part of the season Thursday night in Uniondale, N.Y., against the Islanders, their first contest since a 3-1 home win over Vancouver on Feb. 8.

With so much time between games, Carlyle has taken the approach in these practices that he did back in September when Toronto opened training camp. "What we've tried to do is simu-

Resting his best

Linemates Phil Kessel and James van Riemsdyk didn't practise Tuesday. The Americans arrived from Sochi Monday and Carlyle will make sure both get sufficient rest.

late a little bit of a mini training camp here and try to get our players back in top form that we can hit the ice playing the way we left the ice."

Toronto (32-22-6, 70 points), headed into the Sochi Games on a sparkling 11-2-1 run. The Leafs are tied with Montreal for fourth in the Eastern Conference standings, one point behind third-place Tampa Bay and eight behind second-place Boston.

Pittsburgh (40-15-3, 83 points) leads the way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Following a relatively quiet off-season, Blue Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos appears content to gamble that with better health, the group of players who won just 74 games a year ago will do better this year. But while the roster is familiar, several jobs remain up for grabs. Here's a look at five of the most contentious competitions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Photos by Getty Images



1
Drew Hutchison pitched to a 3.32 ERA in 21.2 innings recently in the Arizona Fall League.

Fifth starter

Frontrunner: Drew Hutchison

Contenders: Esmil Rogers, Todd Redmond, Dustin McGowan, Kyle Drabek, Ricky Romero, Marcus Stroman

You can pencil in the first four spots of the Jays' rotation with R.A. Dickey, Brandon Morrow, Mark Buehrle and J.A. Happ, but the last spot remains unclear and could potentially stay that way through most of the season. Anthopoulos has raved about Hutchison, who has missed most of the last two seasons, since watching him perform in the Arizona Fall League.

Fourth outfielder

Frontrunner: Moises Sierra
Contenders: Anthony Gose, Kevin Pillar



Anthony Gose has the greatest potential of all the organization's young outfield prospects, but he has yet to show he can hit consistently in the big leagues. He also can be optioned to the minors without clearing waivers. Sierra, meanwhile, is out of options. He's also right-handed (Gose is a lefty) and is currently the club's best option to platoon with the left-handed designated hitter, Adam Lind.

Moises Sierra, pictured, doesn't have near the upside of Anthony Gose, but he may be a better fit for the Jays' bench.

Backup catcher

Frontrunner: Erik Kratz
Contenders: Josh Thole

Prior to camp opening it looked as if the incumbent Thole had the inside track to continue as R.A. Dickey's personal knuckleball catcher. But in the early stages of spring training it has been Kratz — acquired from the Philadelphia Phillies for reliever Brad Lincoln — that has caught most of Dickey's practice sessions. The Jays appear to see more offensive potential in the six-foot-four, 255-pound Kratz.



Erik Kratz has some previous knuckleball experience but he's still learning R.A. Dickey's unique pitch.

NBA

Collins grateful for support in return to hardwood

Jason Collins has received support from everyone from his teammates to Billie Jean King since becoming the first openly gay athlete to play in one of the United States' four major professional leagues.

Collins said Tuesday morning that he's received phone calls, texts and emails, as well as messages on Facebook and Twitter, and has been spending

time "just trying to thank everyone for their support."

The seven-footer said one of the most meaningful messages was a text Monday night from King, the former tennis great.

"She just got back from Sochi. With all that's happening with the loss of her mother, she was great. It was really nice to hear from her. It was very meaningful and very much appreciated," Collins said.

Collins signed a 10-day contract on Sunday and played 10 scoreless minutes in a victory against the Los Angeles Lakers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Knicks point guard arraigned on 2 weapons possession charges

New York Knicks point guard Raymond Felton has been arraigned on two weapons possession charges after a lawyer for his wife turned in a loaded semi-automatic handgun to a Manhattan precinct.

Felton did not enter a plea in Manhattan Criminal Court on Tuesday following his early morning arrest at a station-house. He was released on \$25,000 bail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Raymond Felton appears in criminal court on Tuesday in New York.
NEW YORK POST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5

Blue Jays roles up for grabs

Second base

Frontrunner: Ryan Goins

Contenders: Maicer Izturis, Chris Getz, Munenori Kawasaki

Aside from starting pitching, the Jays' most glaring weakness last season was at second base, where Izturis and Emilio Bonifacio combined to be among the league's worst offensive and defensive players at the position. Goins impressed with his glove late last season but struggled at the plate, posting a paltry .264 on-base percentage in 34 games.



GM Alex Anthopoulos sought to acquire a more established second baseman this off-season but as it stands the job remains Ryan Goins' to lose.

Long relief

Frontrunners: Esmil Rogers, Jeremy Jeffress
Contenders: Todd Redmond, Luis Perez, Neil Wagner, Chad Jenkins

The back end of the Jays' bullpen is largely settled with Casey Janssen, Sergio Santos, Steve Delabar and Brett Cecil considered locks. Lefty Aaron Loup and Dustin McGowan — assuming he doesn't nab the fifth starter's spot — are safe bets to join them. That leaves just one or two spots available, depending on whether the Jays choose to open the season with a seven- or eight-man bullpen. Rogers, Redmond, McGowan, Perez and Jeffress are all out of minor-league options and would have to clear waivers before being sent down. The Jays won't be able to keep all of them.

Esmil Rogers started 20 games for the Blue Jays last season.



NHL. Tavares doesn't regret playing in Sochi

John Tavares' opinion on NHL players participating in the Olympic Games hasn't changed even though his New York Islanders' season ended on the other side of the world while he was wearing the colours of Canada.

"It's obviously a tough situation," the injured Islanders captain said Tuesday following his return from the Sochi Games. "I certainly love playing for my country, and if I got the call again, I would."

The 23-year-old Tavares

Quoted

"With this game, there is always that risk any time you step on the ice — the possibility of injury." John Tavares

tore the MCL and meniscus in his left knee a week ago against Latvia. He missed the final two games of Canada's march to the gold medal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Subaru's WRX appeal



PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. Who says sport cars need to have two doors and must be parked for the winter?

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Compact sedans appeal to a buyer's practical nature. But in the WRX's case, the appeal includes a lively powerplant, four-season driving competency plus sporty suspension and steering components that effectively manage the snakiest of paved and unpaved roadways.

Subaru has made a name for itself providing all-wheel-drive family transportation, but that's just part of the story. Its more competitive side includes the rear-wheel drive BRZ sports car and a couple of turbocharged WRX-branded models with rally-racing pedigrees that makes performance fans salivate.

The 2015 WRX that arrives this spring receives the all-new treatment, but in the process sheds its hatchback option. That's a bit surprising since

hot hatches are seemingly all the rage, but since its major competitor, the Mitsubishi Evolution, is strictly sedan-only, Subaru appears to have concluded that a matching sedan is the way to fly.

The WRX has also jettisoned its Impreza tie-in. Henceforth the WRX and the more potent WRX STI offshoot that arrives in updated form later this year will be treated as stand-alone models. While not as eye-catching as the WRX Concept that was revealed at the 2013 New York Auto Show, the production version adopts the cleaner lines of the Impreza, especially from the windshield forward.

Overall, the WRX gains an inch between the front and rear wheels and rear-seat legroom is up by two inches. Additionally, wider-opening rear doors allow easier access to the split-folding rear seat, while trunk space has been modestly increased.

Subaru has done a great job with the WRX's interior accommodations. There's a meaty flat-bottom tilt and telescopic steering wheel that fronts dual gauge pods. They're separated by a small display screen with gear selection, oil and washer

2015 Subaru WRX

- **Type.** Four-door, all-wheel drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC H4 (268)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; continuously variable (CVT) opt.
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$34,500

Design

The bulging front and rear fenders, recessed hood-mounted air intake and optional rear spoiler (subtle when compared to the STI's massive wing) remain in evidence, but the whole package now appears better integrated with the rest of the body.

Engine

For 2015, a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine similar to that used in the Subaru Forester produces 268 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. That compares to the previous WRX's 265/244 numbers.

fluid indicators. A larger dash-mounted screen is linked to the standard backup camera and displays turbocharger boost and traction and climate control info.

It's connected to a new six-speed manual transmission (a replacement for the previous five-speed gearbox), while a continuously variable unit (CVT) with paddle shifters is available. This option might surprise WRX fans, but the real surprise is how it mimics a traditional multi-speed automatic. The CVT has six built-in steps when the driver switches to either Intelligent or Sport

mode from a steering-wheel-mounted switch. There are eight ratios when the Sport Sharp mode is selected.

The WRX's chassis is now 41 per cent stiffer, with front and rear springs and a front anti-roll bar that have been similarly beefed-up. Larger-diameter front disc brakes also provide greater stopping power. The standard all-wheel-drive has a torque split of 50:50, front to rear, for manual-transmission cars and a 45:55 for CVT versions. Depending on traction, up to 100 per cent of the power can be directed to either axle.

For an estimated base price

of \$34,500, the WRX comes with lots of gear, but moving up to the Sport Package adds a sunroof, trunk spoiler, LED headlights and an eight-way power driver's seat. The loaded WRX Sport-tech Package includes all of the above content plus keyless push-button start, touch-screen navigation and a 440-watt Harmon Kardon audio system.

The more sophisticated WRX continues on its path of refinement, backed by enough power and agility to keep all aboard amused and secure. What more could you want in a four-season sports car?

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There's a marketing philosophy that if you tell people enough times that they need something, they'll actually believe that they really do need that something.

Businesses train and condition their customers every day. Why else would anyone really and truly believe that milk "does a body good," or that a glass of orange juice or coffee is the way to start off a day? Because they've been told enough times, so it must be true.

That's marketing. That's sales. Since the beginning of the automobile, we've been made to believe that luxury means size, power, big engines and — here's the punch line — a correspondingly high price. Luxury cars, at least the way we traditionally perceive them, are cash cows for automakers; a way to maximize profit on every single unit sold. How times change. Quickly.

How times change. Quickly.

The snag with bigger cars with bigger engines and more to lug around is that they also burn more fuel. That really wasn't a problem when gas was 60 cents a litre, or even 90 cents. Now that it's \$1.30 or more in many areas, though, \$100 for a fill-up is quite conspicuous.

Compounding that is global warming, or the awareness of it anyway. People are actually thinking more about what their habits are doing to the environment.

Those factors affect luxury sales, but the real kick in the pants comes from the U.S. government's rising fuel-economy standards that are slowly killing the big engines for which luxury automakers have been able to charge a premium.

This is one of the key reasons that the same automakers now have smaller models: To average out the fuel consumption of the bigger models to meet government regulations.

But in all that, something very cool has taken place.

Quoted

Since the beginning of the automobile, we've been made to believe that luxury means size, power, big engines and — here's the punch line — a correspondingly high price. Luxury cars, at least the way we traditionally perceive them, are cash cows for automakers; a way to maximize profit on every single unit sold. How times change. Quickly.

The amount of money you have doesn't necessarily dictate the badge that will end up on your hood anymore. For example, you can find a handsome Mercedes-Benz model for 35 grand. So, rather than necessarily losing out on profit by generally downsizing their big cars, the crafty luxury-car companies are branching out into non-traditional territory.

This means a shift in the marketing. Small engines and small cars also mean luxury. The trouble with that, of course, is that we've been told that the opposite is true for so long that it's hard to believe anything different, let alone anything entirely opposite. As such, there are some interesting offerings if you happen to be open to the idea of small-scale, small-powered rides that lean toward the cushy side of things.

The Buick Encore is especially interesting because it is so far out of this GM brand's comfort zone. How so? Aside from being a small tall wagon, it also appeals to a much younger demographic. A 30-year-old driving a brand-new Buick? On purpose?

We said the Encore is especially interesting.

It's based on the same platform used by the Verano sedan as well as the Chevrolet Cruze and Sonic small cars. However, it's about 18 centimetres longer and 10 centimetres taller than the Sonic hatchback, thereby giving it far more cargo room with the rear seat in place or folded flat. Not as much room as a Hyundai Tucson or even a Toyota Matrix, but the front passenger seat does fold flat so that longer items such as ladders and building materials can fit inside.

The cabin is also on the re-



How vehicle size became equated with luxury is a study in marketing. Bucking that bit of pop culture is the Buick Encore. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

ceiving end of one of Buick's more fashionable interiors, and it should be one of the quietest as well with the addition of active noise cancellation, a system that uses ceiling-mounted microphones to detect offending droning sounds. A special computer then creates counteracting sound waves through the audio-system speakers. It's a system that's commonly found on more expensive vehicles. There's also a quieter-running alternator, sound-absorbing headliner and windshield and thicker side glass.

Getting the Encore up to speed is a 1.4-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine that generates 140 horsepower and 148 pound-feet of torque. Both the Chevrolet Sonic and Cruze use the 1.4, which runs on regular gas and not premium.

A six-speed automatic is the Encore's only available transmission. For this application, a steeper first gear helps improve off-the-line performance while a taller sixth gear causes the engine to loaf along at lower engine revs at highway speeds for more fuel-efficient operation. A 1,400-kilometre trip through the Rockies between Kelowna, B.C. and Calgary, Alta., required a lot of throttle application as you might imagine with steep grades lasting for kilometres, but the average consumption was decent enough at about 8.5 l/100 km. Flat-land cruising is a simple matter of setting the speed control and enjoying the audio system



The Encore's tiny 1.4-litre engine is a far cry from a V8, but it was well able for the steep grades of the Rockies.

and the scenery.

The Encore comes in Convenience, Leather and Premium trims. Standard, for a list price of about \$29,500 including destination charges, is the usual air, cruise, tilt and power accessories plus 10 airbags and 18-inch wheels, which is considered massive for this size of vehicle. All-wheel-drive adds \$2,000 to each trim level.

Well equipped with leather seating and all-wheel drive, you're staring at 35 grand in the face, which has to be seen as a decent buy for something this functional and neat and tidy. It's a Buick that just about anyone of any age would want to own. Memory wipe? Yup.



Exterior dimensions don't matter as much if you're not limited by what you can do inside. Transporting longer items isn't a problem here.

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1.6 SL Tech model shown

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3.5 SL Tech model shown▲

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SL AWD Premium model shown with Accessory Roof Rail Crossbars

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AUTO PILOT

Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Not much motorcycling going on Canadian roads this winter, unless you're one of those hardy souls who ride year-round with no sense in your head and lots of long underwear swaddling your nether regions.

But there is lots of motorcycle action to be had indoors, such as in The Motorcycle Show (operated by Power Sport Services) crossing the country this winter. This past weekend the show touched down at Toronto's Direct Energy Centre, a newish venue, bigger and better than in previous bike shows, even though the hot dogs and pizza slices still cost eight bucks or so.

I love motorcycle shows almost more than auto-



The Castrol Rocket was built to break land-speed records. CASTROL

motive shows, mostly because of this fact: cars have adjustable seats and steering wheels and motorcycles don't. Consequently, motorcycles have to fit your body type and your preferred riding position before you could even consider anything else about it ... And the only way to determine a good fit is to throw a leg over the bike and sit on it. A motorcycle show lets you do that over and over again, even if you're not in the market for anything and just doing it for curiosity sake. Way more entertaining

than trying on jeans for example, and also less claustrophobic.

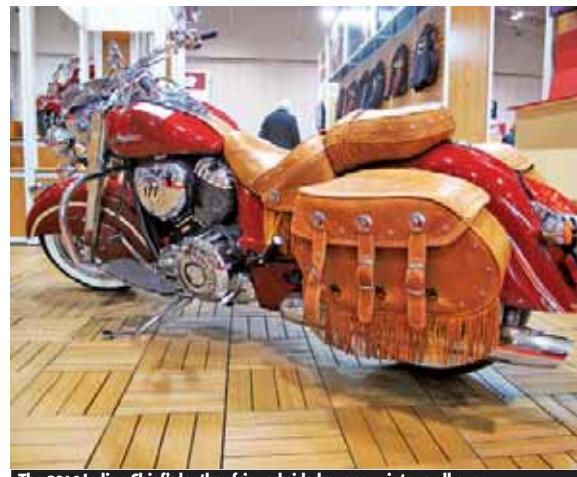
Of course there are always bikes on a show floor you can't sit on, because they're super special in some way, and the Toronto show had two such knockouts: the Triumph Streamliner called the Castrol Rocket and the century-old Indian Boardtrack Racer.

The Castrol Rocket is built to break the world land-speed record for motorcycles, currently set at 605 kilometres per hour. The

goal of the Castrol Rocket is 643 km/h.

The 25-foot long "motorcycle" has Carbon Kevlar monocoque construction, and two turbocharged Triumph Rocket III engines running on methanol, for about 1,000 horsepower, give or take.

Even though quite a few motorcycles have been designed since 1913, many feel the Indian Boardtrack factory racer, circa 1913, to be one of the most beautiful and purist motorcycle designs ever conceived. I guess it helps when



The 2014 Indian Chief's leather fringed side bags say vintage all over. CONTRIBUTED

you don't have to put a lot of extraneous features on the bike, like rear suspension, a starter, lights ... and brakes! These bikes really only have two controls, a spark advance and a kill switch.

These bikes are rare and incredibly valuable, but this particular one is even cooler, because it is an original, in unrestored condition and believed to be actually raced in Toronto back in the day, by legendary Canadian motorcycle board track and flat track racer, Harold Cole.

So the Castrol Rocket was

the fastest bike at the show and the Indian was the oldest. Let's look at a couple of other categories you might be wondering about...

Frilliest? Probably the 2014 Indian Chief, by virtue of its totally vintage and outlandish leather-fringed side bags.

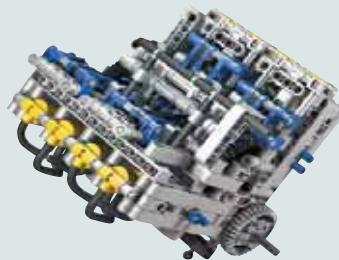
Most Frugal? Probably the new 2014 Honda Grom. Not only is it small, but the 125-cc powered bike is also a category buster. What is it? Big mini bike? Small motorcycle? Medium weight lifting equipment?

Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Lego-built V8

You can really build just about anything using Lego pieces, as proven by Slovenia-based LPEpower. The company specializes in making fully assembled working scale-models of various engines, including the V8 shown here. It's apparently patterned after a Ford Mustang engine and will rev up to 2,200 rpm using compressed air to activate the 31 moving parts, including pistons, crankshaft, balance shaft and valves. The engine weighs about a third of a kilogram and is about 10x12x12 centimetres tall. Check out the video of a working engine and order one for about \$425 US (including worldwide shipping) at LPEpower.com.



A clean oil change

You can save money by changing your own oil, but crawling underneath your car to do it can be a hassle and, of course, messy. A much simpler and cleaner method is to



purchase an Oil Extractor from Bavarian Autosport. The company's system works by inserting the extraction hose down the dipstick tube (after first removing the dipstick, of course) and manually pumping out the contents of the engine's crankcase into the attached seven-litre tank (note that you'll need to first install a fresh oil filter before starting the extraction process). Then you refill the engine with clean oil. It doesn't get much easier than that and no more trips to the dealer or quick-oil-change centre. The Oil Extractor sells for \$90 US and is available from bavauto.com.

Power from above

The Chamberlain Garage Power Station is a combination of 100-pounds-per-square-inch air hose, 100-watt LED trouble light and 120-volt plug-in power source that you attach to the ceiling of your garage. The Power Center unit also comes with a built-in hook and an eight-metre retractable cord that you can set to any length so it's always close at hand and will reach just about anywhere on your vehicle. The Home Depot sells the Power Station for \$140 in Canada, or you can order directly from the company online at chamberlain.com.



What's the charge?



According to CTEK Power Inc., 70 per cent of all car batteries that are returned under warranty have been improperly maintained. But aren't batteries maintenance-free? Not exactly, and sitting for long periods can be the kiss of death. So, by attaching one of the company's battery chargers, you'll get an instant readout as to your battery's condition. The three light-emitting diode (LED) lights on the panel glow either green for fully charged, yellow for a partial or low charge, or red to indicate the battery needs charging right away. Prices range from \$50 US for the base model, up to \$250 US for one with all the bells and whistles. The full range is available through CTEK's Web site, smartercharger.com.



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I'm glad they don't make 'em like they used to

Driving Force. Yes, classic cars can be timeless and beautiful but don't forget how lucky we are that the automobile evolved ... no more crank starts!

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

You've probably heard someone say, "They don't make 'em like that anymore," when comparing old cars to new ones. But while cars certainly have changed, that's not really a bad thing.

"You can be nostalgic, but there were all sorts of compromises," says Richard Pickering, retired producer of the Signature Classics Collection at the Canadian Inter-

national Auto Show in Toronto. "Everything today, for all practical purposes, is better than it was back then."

The automobile's progress has always been an evolution, from cars that initially had to be cranked to start, to engines today that fire up almost instantly, thanks to computerized ignitions and fuel injection. Improvements in cooling systems have all

but eliminated the overheated vehicles on the side of the road that used to be the norm in hot weather, while flat tires have become relatively rare due to better construction and rubber compounds.

Engines have also become far more efficient. In 1958, the first year of the Chevrolet Impala, you could order one with a 8-cylinder engine that made 250 horsepower, with

fuel consumption of about 23 litres per 100 kilometres. A 2014 Impala gets 305 hp out of its V6 engine, and it's rated at 9.2 l/100 km. The new model also steers and handles better, has far better brakes, and considerably less body flex.

However, it's also pricier: when the 1958's price is converted to 2014 dollars, the new Impala costs about \$12,000 more.

Perhaps the biggest change over the years has been in safety.

"Most people didn't have seatbelts, let alone use them," Pickering says. "You just had a bit of padding on the dash, a deep-dish steering wheel, and a collapsible steering column to keep it from being a spear."

In addition to anti-lock brakes, stability control and airbags, newer cars also have crumple zones, introduced by Mercedes-Benz in 1959. Some people complain that new cars fold up in a collision, unlike older cars that stay rigid, but it's a design that has helped to consistently lower the crash fatality rate, even though there are more cars on the road.

As a modern car's body progressively crumples, it absorbs and dissipates the crash

Interesting facts

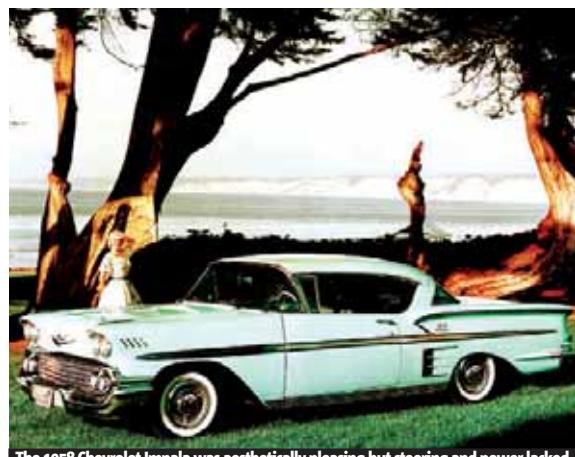
- **Short warranties.** While some vehicles have a warranty for as long as five years or 100,000 km today, a typical 1940s warranty lasted only 90 days or 6,500 km.

- **False advertising.** Most old cars didn't actually make as much power as was advertised, due to the test standards at the time.

- **First self-starter.** The first gasoline car with a self-starter, which eliminated cranking the engine, was the 1912 Cadillac.

energy. In older vehicles, the rigid body transferred that force to the occupants, slamming them into the interior components.

Old cars had a certain style, although the annual design changes on American cars meant there wasn't always time to get the fit-and-finish right. "The excessive use of chrome, the tail fins, catches our eyes today," Pickering says. "But what do I drive every day? It isn't a vintage car."



The 1958 Chevrolet Impala was aesthetically pleasing but steering and power lacked.



Also, safety in this model was not up to today's high standards. PHOTOS GENERAL MOTORS

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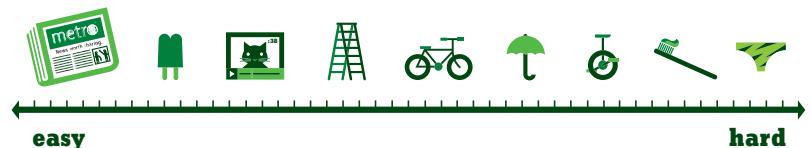
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